

Message Text

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ACTION AID-31

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O 241220Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4559

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 4508

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, US, LA

SUBJ: FEOF NEGOTIATIONS

REF: A) STATE 147367; B) VIENTIANE 4475; C) VIENTIANE 4250

1. WASHINGTON RESPONSE CONTAINED REF A GREATLY APPRECIATED. WE BELIEVE POSTURE OF WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER SIGNATURE OF CY 1975 AGREEMENTS IS OPTIMUM AT THIS TIME.

2. POL COUNSELOR (WHO HAS REPLACED STETTNER AS U.S. REP TO DONOR ADVISORY BOARD) CALLED ON JUNE CHAIRMAN NISHIYAMA TO DISCUSS OUR POSITION AS OUTLINED REF A AND METHODS OF PROCEDURE IN LIGHT THEREOF.

3. NISHIYAMA SAID POSITION WE HAD ADOPTED WOULD CLEARLY REQUIRE CONSULTATION WITH TOKYO AND WAS MOST PLEASED TO HAVE BEEN INFORMED NO LATER THAN HE WAS. HE SAID HE WOULD CABLE TOKYO IMMEDIATELY TO HAVE PRESENTATION FOR CABINET ALTERED. (CABINET WAS TO CONSIDER FEOF AGREEMENT MORNING JUNE 27 AND NISHIYAMA EXPECTED TO RECEIVE RESPONSE BY GAIMUSHO EQUIVALENT OF "FLASH" TELEGRAM IN TIME FOR AFTERNOON SIGNING HERE.) HE SAID HE WOULD NOT EVEN VENTURE TO PREDICT GOJ REACTION TO OUR STAND. HE ALSO INFERRED CORRECTLY THAT SIGNATURE ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30 WAS NO LONGER A PRESSING REQUIREMENT FOR US.

4. NISHIYAMA CONSIDERED IT MOST IMPORTANT TO PROCEED WITH
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DONOR ADVISORY BOARD MEETING JUNE 25, AND WE PROMISED HIM

CLEAN DRAFT OF OUR CONFIDENTIAL LETTER AND CORRECTED DRAFT
PAGES OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND OF OUR OPEN
LETTER FOR DISTRIBUTION AT THAT TIME. HE ALSO URGED
THAT WE CONFER IN ADVANCE OF MEETING WITH AS MANY OTHER DONOR
REPS AS POSSIBLE AND WITH IMF RES REP AS WELL. THIS WAS
DONE WITH FOLLOWING RESULTS:

A) AUSTRALIAN ALTERNATE REP TOOK NEWS CALMLY AND SAID HE
WOULD CLEARLY HAVE TO CONSULT CANBERRA. HE VOLUNTEERED
THAT AUSTRALIANS COULD NOT HAVE SIGNED ON JUNE 27
ANYWAY SINCE THEY MUST AWAIT DECISION BY GOVERNOR-GENERAL-
IN-COUNCIL WHICH WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN AVAILABLE BY THAT
TIME. HE AGREED TO MENTION THIS POINT AT JUNE 25 MEETING.

B) FRENCH REP IMMEDIATELY PERCEIVED MAGNITUDE OF
CHANGE WHICH OUR POSITION REPRESENTS AND WONDERED ALOUD
OVER ENTIRE FUTURE OF FEOF. HE VOLUNTEERED THAT HE
WAS CERTAIN HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TAKEN SIMILAR
POSITION IF IT WERE IN OUR SHOES. HE SAID HE WOULD
REPORT TO PARIS, BUT EXTENT TO WHICH OUR POSITION MAY
CAUSE FRENCH TO VIEW THEIRS WAS NOT CLEAR. FRENCH
REP NOTED THAT AGREEMENTS COVER ENTIRE CY AND THAT
BY SIGNING TEXTS AS STIPULATED REF A WE WOULD BE LEAVING
NO OPENING FOR POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL SUBSCRIPTION IN THE
FUTURE. POL COUNSELOR SAID WE RECOGNIZED THIS POINT BUT
THAT ANY DISCUSSION WITH PGNU OF FUTURE USG ECONOMIC
ASSISTANCE WOULD HAVE TO FOLLOW TERMINATION OF PRESENT
PROGRAMS. HE ADDED THAT WE DID NOT WANT TO SIGN FEOF
AGREEMENT CONTAINING PROVISIONS THAT MISREPRESENTED OUR
PRESENT POSITION OR MIGHT LATER LEAVE US OPEN TO
ACCUSATIONS OF BAD FAITH.

C) WE HAVE NOT SO FAR REACHED IMF RES REP OR BRITISH
ALTERNATE DAB REP (REGULAR REP ON POUCH RUN TO
BANGKOK AND WILL NOT RETURN UNTIL AFTER JUNE 25 DAB
MEETING, AND BRITISH TAKE TUESDAY AFTERNOON OFF.) WE
MAY, HOWEVER, SUCCEED IN REACHING ONE OR BOTH EVENING
JUNE 24 OR MORNING JUNE 25 BEFORE DAB MEETING.

5. UNLESS LAO ARE TOLD BY FRENCH, THEY WILL GET THE WORD
ONLY AT DAB MEETING. WE CANNOT AT THIS POINT ANTICIPATE
THE PGNU REACTION, NOR CAN WE ESTIMATE WHEN SIGNING
MIGHT TAKE PLACE.

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CHAPMAN

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